

BRITISH TROOPS WITHIN SIX MILES OF LILLE; AMERICANS AT FOE'S LAST LINE IN FRANCE; NEW JERSEY SHELL PLANT BLOWS UP; 100 DEAD

TIME TABLE FOR CITY TO STOP GRIP PERIL IN SUBWAY RUSH; 1,605 NEW CASES, 42 DEATHS

Health Board, Merchants
and Theatre Men Act to
Check Influenza.

BURN COAL; SAVE LIVES

Hours Are Fixed for Busi-
ness and Amusement
Places to Open.

ORDER EFFECTIVE TO-DAY

Dr. Copeland Hopes to Save
Metropolis From Fate of
Other Large Cities.

Dr. Royal S. Copeland, Commissioner of Health, issued a proclamation yesterday calling upon business houses, stores, offices and factories to regulate their hours of work by a schedule he prepared. It appears in an adjoining column. He called upon theatres also to change their hours. He does not ask any place to close its doors.

The schedule becomes effective to-day. "The object of the extraordinary measure is to distribute the subway traffic over as much time as possible to prevent overcrowding. Thus it is hoped to avoid such an epidemic of influenza as has crippled Boston and Philadelphia."

Dr. Copeland asks the good natured compliance of the public with this order, which in reality, he said, is a request.

"It is a patriotic duty of the people to help us check the spread of influenza," he said, "and I ask and believe every man, woman and child in the five boroughs whom it affects will do his duty. However, if there are violations, we have the authority to close the places where violations occur. This measure is for health protection and we mean to see that the health of the community is protected."

Will Burn Coal to Save Lives.

"We have gone even further in one respect than in one jurisdiction. Heat is to be turned on. We have the approval of the State Fuel Administrator in this. It is better to burn a little coal and save lives and illness than to conserve the fuel at this cost. Heat will be on, if it is cool enough, in this building to-morrow."

"I urge the people to get out in the air as much as possible, for fresh air is the greatest curative and preventive agency for this disease. I also urge the people to wear enough clothing to keep comfortably warm, for chilliness is an invitation to influenza."

The proclamation was issued after a conference with department heads, nurses and inspectors of the Health Department and of the schools and representatives of the Board of Education, leaders of mercantile establishments, union leaders, members of the Chamber of Commerce, and representatives of the subway, elevated and surface lines. In Dr. Copeland's office yesterday. All health officers agreed to the regulations adopted.

They all agreed that while the epidemic of influenza and pneumonia is not alarming at the present time, all means to prevent its spread should be adopted. This applies particularly to crowding. The subway presented the gravest problem.

Health Board's Official Order.

Dr. Copeland's order was promulgated at the close of the conference in the following resolutions adopted:

"Whereas, the epidemic of so-called Spanish influenza and pneumonia, while not alarming at the present moment, necessitates care on the part of the citizens of the city of New York, and

"Whereas, the particular thing to be avoided in order to escape contagion is to prohibit crowding and congestion, particularly in places of public assembly, and

"Whereas, one of the chief places of crowding is in the subway, surface cars, elevated trains, steam railways and other public conveyances used for the transportation of passengers, and

"Whereas, the opening and closing of the vast majority of mercantile, manufacturing and business establishments take place at the same hours in the morning and afternoon or evening, and are the principal factor in causing such overcrowded conditions of the subway and other public conveyances during the peak hours of travel, and

"Whereas, the conditions hereinbefore set forth constitute, in the opinion of the Board of Health, a condition prejudicial to the health of the persons using such public conveyances and frequenting other places of public assembly, therefore

Resolved, That the Board of Health hereby declares the conditions hereinbefore set forth to be prejudicial to health, and hereby orders:

1. That the institutions and buildings used in commerce, manufacture, trade, industry and labor, transportation, recreation, shall maintain hours of opening and closing in accordance with the following schedule:

Then follows the schedule as printed elsewhere.

Among those attending the conference

Schedule for Work and Theatregoing.

HOURS of business and recreation set for New York by Dr. Royal S. Copeland, Health Commissioner, follow:

All stores, except retail food and drug stores, shall open at 8 A. M. and close at 4 P. M.

All wholesale and jobbing establishments shall open at 8:15 A. M. and close at 4:15 P. M.

All offices shall open at 8:30 A. M. and close at 4:30 P. M.

All textile manufacturing establishments shall open at 9 A. M. and close at 5 P. M.

All non-textile manufacturing establishments shall open at 9:30 A. M. and close at 5:30 P. M.

All establishments formerly opening before 8 A. M. and closing later than 5 P. M. shall not be disturbed. The particular purpose of this exception is to prevent any interference with munition factories or war industries.

Theatres and places of amusement shall open in accordance with the following schedule:

7:00 P. M.—All moving picture theatres above Fourteenth street and below Fifty-ninth street that seat more than 750 persons; Rivoli, Bialto, Strand.

8:00 P. M.—Opera House, Hippodrome, Palace; all two day vaudeville houses, Columbia burlesque.

8:15 P. M.—Winter Garden, Century, Broadhurst, Casino, Park, Harris, New Amsterdam, George M. Cohan, Globe, Cort, Liberty, Shubert.

8:30 P. M.—Lyric, Plymouth, Astor, Comedy, Morosco, Lyceum, Criterion, Knickerbocker.

8:45 P. M.—Manhattan, Central, Selwyn, Booth, Belmont, Hudson, Gaiety.

9:00 P. M.—Longacre, Bijou, Forty-eighth Street, Playhouse, Maxine Elliott, Republic, Eltinge, Empire, Cohan & Harris, Belasco, Punch and Judy.

1,800,000 U. S. TROOPS ABROAD LLOYD GEORGE MAY ASK VOTE

Influenza Epidemic Likely to
Delay Rate of Shipments
for a While.

10,398 DAILY IN AUGUST

Supply Service Set New Record, American Ports Handling 25,808 Tons a Day.

By the Associated Press.
WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE.
Oct. 4.—The American supply service reached a new high mark in September, averaging its August record by 10 per cent. American ports handled a daily average of 25,808 tons of freight.

There also was a gratifying increase of rolling stock and more than 1,000 American locomotives are now in operation, while the number of freight cars is more than 10,000. This rolling stock is all used in the great system of transporting men and supplies to the front.

Every day in August 10,398 American soldiers landed at French ports. Munitions and other material are now pouring to the front in an endless stream.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 4.—American troops abroad now number 1,800,000, members of the House Military Committee were informed today at their weekly conference at the War Department.

Spanish influenza in camps and cantonments will retard shipments somewhat in the immediate future, they were told, the Department having adopted the policy of not sending overseas men who have been exposed or show symptoms of the disease.

No requests for the suspension of physical examinations of draft registrants were received by Provost Marshal General Crowder today, though in Massachusetts and Philadelphia the work has been stopped because of influenza. It was said that except in localities where conditions were particularly bad the examinations would proceed.

The examinations upon which local boards everywhere are now engaged affect men between 19 and 27 years of age who have registered on September 12 and inance at call. The first large call for men in October, which would have taken 142,000 into cantonments on October 8, still remains suspended.

Shipment of De Havilland airplanes abroad was greater last week than at any time since their manufacture began in favor of Crown Prince Boris, who has been ordered to the front.

Production of Liberty motors also was greatly increased during the week.

GERMANS LEAVE ESTHONIA.

Popular Uprising Probable, Is
State Department Advice.
WASHINGTON, Oct. 4.—The State Department was advised today through Stockholm that German troops are moving out of Estonia and that a popular uprising will probably take place there in the near future.

It is noted, however, that there is a great scarcity of arms and ammunition which the people could get.

Ferdinand Quits, Is Report.

PARIS, Oct. 4.—King Ferdinand of Bulgaria is reported to have abdicated in favor of Crown Prince Boris, who has already assumed power, according to a Hanoi despatch to the Havas Agency, quoting advices from Vienna.

Possibility of General Election
for Indorsement of His
Policy in War.

PROBABLE IN DECEMBER

Ballot, if Ordered, Likely to
Reduce Greatly Seats of
Irish Nationalists.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.
Copyright, 1918, all rights reserved.
LONDON, Oct. 4.—Indications increase that the Lloyd George Government has decided to go to the country for a mandate to carry on its war policy. The election probably will be held some time in December. Dr. Robert Nichol, editor of the British Weekly, who is in close touch with Lloyd George, writes:

"It may be said with some confidence that there will be an election this year unless some extraordinary collapse of the enemy is followed by immediate peace conferences. This is by no means likely, as Germany still possesses 3,500,000 good soldiers. The Lloyd George government, it is understood, is determined to put its authority to proof. The Premier and his Ministers want a distinct mandate from the people to go on and if they do not receive this they will resign."

"Recent events in Parliament have led to this decision. It is also felt that the House of Commons, which ought to be an organ of the people, is not now representative of them in any true sense."

In the event of a general election it is believed one result will be the practical elimination of the Irish Nationalist party. All information from Ireland indicates the Sinn Feiners stand a good chance to win fifty seats out of seventy-five held by the Nationalists.

As indicating this probable result William O'Brien, who sits from Cork at the next election, giving as his reason "that a chance should be given to the Sinn Fein party to obtain a settlement of the Irish question."

Those best acquainted with conditions in Ireland see particular significance in this view of the impending general election.

An order has been issued that all arms and ammunition in Ireland not held under government permit must be handed over to the military authorities or the police by next Wednesday.

A British stationery office has advertised for bids for printing ballots for all constituencies in England and Wales, with requests that estimates be submitted immediately.

GERMAN DEFEAT IN AFRICA.

Enemy Troops Thrown Back
Across Rovuma River.
PARIS, Oct. 4.—Portuguese forces in Africa, in conjunction with the British, have thrown the remaining German troops in German East Africa back across the Rovuma River, according to the Petit Parisien. The Rovuma runs from the region of Lake Nyassa to the Indian Ocean and forms the boundary line between German and Portuguese East Africa.

The Germans were compelled to abandon a great quantity of material and lost numerous men in prisoners.

Enemy Troops Thrown Back Across Rovuma River.

PARIS, Oct. 4.—Portuguese forces in Africa, in conjunction with the British, have thrown the remaining German troops in German East Africa back across the Rovuma River, according to the Petit Parisien. The Rovuma runs from the region of Lake Nyassa to the Indian Ocean and forms the boundary line between German and Portuguese East Africa.

The Germans were compelled to abandon a great quantity of material and lost numerous men in prisoners.

TNT BLAST ROCKS COAST; TROOPS SENT

Accident Occurs as Thou-
sands Work in Gillespie
Company's Plant.

300 TO 500 ARE HURT

Other Explosions Follow Dur-
ing Night and Entire \$18-
000,000 Plant in Peril.

Four of the units included in the mammoth shell loading plant of the T. A. Gillespie Company at Morgan's Station, N. J., two miles south of South Amboy, were destroyed last night by an explosion that rocked the Jersey coast as though it were shaken by an earthquake, and early this morning it was known that at least 100 persons had been killed and from 300 to 500 workers injured. The great plant, estimated to be worth \$18,000,000, was still slowly burning early to-day and there were fears that it might be entirely wiped out.

Some conjectures as to the number of dead went as high as 400, but accurate information regarding the actual figures could not be obtained, as the officials declined to make a statement.

It said that nothing could be given out for several days. Explosions continued at intervals up to 2 o'clock A. M.; an especially violent one occurred shortly after 1 o'clock. Troops were rushed to the plant from various nearby camps all during the night.

Another Explosion Occurs.
Another explosion, fully as violent as any, occurred at 2:30 A. M., when another unit at the plant was destroyed. The building caught fire some time before the detonation and soldiers and company guards were ordered to leave the vicinity. Debris fell over a wide area and plate glass windows were broken in South Amboy and Perth Amboy.

The fire was not under control at 3 o'clock A. M. Another building filled with 12 inch shells was threatened and was expected to go before morning. Residents of South Amboy were abandoning their homes. Two thousand of them had gone to Perth Amboy by 2:30 o'clock, and thousands more to other towns out of the danger zone.

The plant consisted of nineteen buildings, or units, of which seven were in operation and twelve ready for occupancy. Each unit consisted of a building 250 feet long by seventy-five feet wide, of frame construction, roofed with corrugated iron. The buildings ranged from one to two stories in height. Above them was a machine room, built for the workers, containing more than a hundred dwelling shacks, with moving picture shows and other means of entertainment for the workers.

A total of 4,000 workers were engaged in the seven buildings and the night shift was just about to take its place at 7 o'clock. While there were many women engaged in the buildings, they worked only during the day and the last woman had departed at 4 o'clock in the afternoon. Hardly had the night workers started for their toil when 7,000 pounds of TNT, the high explosive with which shells are charged, exploded with a great roar in Unit 61-1.

Panic Instantly Follows.

There was instant panic. It was supposed that a type of gas known as a "booster" had gone off, starting the general fire. Before the workers in the unit could escape the building was a mass of roaring flames, with loud and frequent explosions and heavy detonations coming within fifteen minutes of each other. In rapid succession Units 61-2, 71-1 and 71-2 caught fire and added the force of their miniature earthquakes to the awful din.

Only the fact that the day force was just leaving the building and the full night crew had not arrived prevented the loss of life from reaching a total that would have been many times the actual result.

As the immediate damage stood all of the buildings within a radius of 200 yards were destroyed, and then the fire began spreading to the other buildings. Firemen both from the plant force and from all of the nearby towns were unprepared to deal with the situation, and the work of coping with the situation was slow and ineffective.

So great was the detonation that windows within a radius of five miles were broken, and the lights of passing passenger trains were wholly extinguished. Marines, infantry, naval reserves and members of the Coast Guard were hastily rushed to handle the situation.

1,500 Soldiers Sent.

When the army officers and engineers on duty at the plant found that the workmen could not cope with the situation and that the local guards were not sufficient they telephoned to Camp Vail, near Long Branch, N. J. The Camp Vail officers sent 1,500 soldiers and many physicians and ambulances to the scene. With a dead line established a mile from the plant and sentries holding inquirers at bay, there was an utter lack of detailed information concerning what had taken place at the plant. The Gillespie firm, which has offices in Gillespie, a short distance

DUTCH SEND OUT PEACE 'FEELERS' AT VIENNA'S BID

German Newspapers Assert
Sensational Step Will
Be Taken Soon.

BRITISH REPLY RECEIVED

Vienna Hears Austria Has
Been Told to Specify
More Precisely.

AMSTERDAM, Oct. 4.—Austria-Hungary has requested Holland to invite the belligerents to take part in peace negotiations, says the Vienna correspondent of the Berlin Tageblatt. The correspondent adds that Holland already has sent out the invitations.

The Tageblatt's Vienna correspondent says the British reply to Baron Burian's recent peace note has been received by the Austrian Government. According to the correspondent the note is politely couched and requests the Austro-Hungarian Government to specify its peace proposals more precisely.

The correspondent adds that Prof. Heinrich Simonsch, jurist, and professor in the University of Vienna, has been charged with drafting a memorandum on President Wilson's fourteen points of peace for transmission to President Wilson.

A delegation of Hungarian statesmen, headed by Premier Wekerle, has arrived at Vienna in connection with a new peace move, according to the Cologne Gazette. The other members of the Wekerle party were Count Stephen Tisza and Count Julius Andrássy, former Premiers of Hungary, and Count Albert Apponyi, the Hungarian Minister of Instruction.

A new and decisive step will be taken on the initiative of Baron Burian, the newspaper says.

Regarding the negotiations at Vienna Premier Wekerle said to the representative of a Hungarian newspaper: "This much I can tell you—we are again laboring untiringly in the interests of peace and we are already negotiating."

[A despatch from The Hague under date of September 28 said: "The Austro-Hungarian Government, according to an official statement issued here to-day, has suggested to Holland that it would appreciate it if any conference of the belligerents arising out of the recent Austrian peace note could be conducted at The Hague. The Dutch Government replied that it would be happy to extend the hospitality of the royal residence for that purpose."]

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.

Copyright, 1918, all rights reserved.
PARIS, Oct. 4.—Vienna advices from various sources lead to the belief that Austria may very soon make an overture of sensational character. She has already let it be known through the Vatican upon what basis she is ready to lay down arms.

What Vienna has officially communicated to the Pope will have to remain one of the secrets of diplomacy until after the war. Suffice to say the conditions offered were unacceptable to the Allies.

RUSE IS SUSPECTED

IN WASHINGTON

Germany Is Camouflaging for Peace, Is Belief.

Special Despatch to The Sun.
Copyright, 1918, all rights reserved.
WASHINGTON, Oct. 4.—Another desperate and ingenious peace move appears to have been launched by the Central Powers. Reports from inspired German sources say that Austria has asked Holland to invite the belligerents to take part in peace negotiations, says the Vienna correspondent of the Berlin Tageblatt. The correspondent adds that Holland already has sent out the invitations.

The Tageblatt's Vienna correspondent says the British reply to Baron Burian's recent peace note has been received by the Austrian Government. According to the correspondent the note is politely couched and requests the Austro-Hungarian Government to specify its peace proposals more precisely.

The correspondent adds that Prof. Heinrich Simonsch, jurist, and professor in the University of Vienna, has been charged with drafting a memorandum on President Wilson's fourteen points of peace for transmission to President Wilson.

Continued on Third Page.

Fund Bread Returns

After Many Days

"SEPTEMBER 13, 1918, Some-
where in France.—Thank
you, SUN Tobacco Fund. I
helped you before leaving home;
you have now helped us here.
You were welcome, more so than
you know. In behalf of six
American soldiers.

"(Signed) H. W. CLARK."

This is a card from one of the first "residents" of Camp Upton; the men in training there and in other cantonments always took every opportunity to boost the smoke fund, saying that some day they would benefit by it. They have by hundreds of thousands. To see how and why it is growing read what is doing on page 5.

WARNING! THE SUN To-
hacco Fund has no connection
with any other fund, organiza-
tion or publication. It employs
no agents or solicitors.

Continued on Third Page.

Magyar Press Hostile to Austria in Crisis

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.

Copyright, 1918, all rights reserved.
LONDON, Oct. 4.—Signs of dis-
ension in the Dual Monarchy
multiply, reflecting the demoralization and antagonism, which is becoming more acute at the moment when the Vienna Govern-
ment is facing a most serious crisis. Hungarian newspapers are attacking the Austrians most bitterly.

The A Zest, a Budapest newspaper, is accused by an Austrian contemporary of carrying on a systematic anti-Austrian campaign, according to a despatch from Berne. This Austrian paper says:

"In August alone A Zest published twelve articles against Austria. Neither France, England nor Italy used such harsh words against Austria as does the A Zest. Without exaggeration we say that no German paper, speaking of France, expresses itself in such a tone as does this Magyar paper against Austria."

GERMANS FLEE FROM BULGARIA

Natives Lay Down Arms, While
Tentons Seek Shelter of
Danube Defences.

DARDANELLES IN PERIL

Communication Between Sofia
and Constantinople Has
Been Cut Off.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.

Copyright, 1918, all rights reserved.
PARIS, Oct. 4.—The occupation of Bulgaria by the allied armies is said to be progressing normally. According to the Echo de Paris, Bulgarian troops at certain points offered resistance but submitted when informed of the terms of the armistice. German troops are retreating toward Germany.

The Germans appear to have an organized line of defenses along the Danube, which they have strongly fortified. Bucharest is already fortified against possible siege. According to a Rome despatch Field Marshal von Mackensen is touring the Dobruja along the last Rumanian-Bulgarian frontier, apparently preparing the defenses of the Danubian front.

Constantinople Cut Off.

It is reported definitely that communication between Sofia and Constantinople has been cut off. The Maritima says that if the fall of Damascus does not cause the capitulation of Turkey, a British army from this new base easily can double the usual rate of advance. Beirut, the paper says, would fall in a few days, after which the march could be made on Aleppo.

By cutting the communications of the last Ottoman divisions in Mesopotamia the definite ruin of the sultan's tottering power could be accomplished.

"It is probable," the paper adds, "that to have something out of the wreck of the Turks will soon be a fact. Yet certain sections of opinion here expect an Austrian collapse before Turkey succumbs."

From military standpoints Turkey continues to be the center to which the Allies may look for important developments. The military men point out that Germany is confronted with the possibility of not being able to insure the return of any reinforcements she may send to Turkey. They point out that there is always the chance that the Dardanelles may be forced, especially now that the Allies have large land forces both in the Balkans and in Asia to cooperate with their fleets.

No credence is attached here to the report that Bulgarian troops may cooperate with the Allies in the Balkans, as the Serbians and Greeks are opposed to accepting the Bulgarians as allies.

Besides, the participation of the Bulgars in the campaign against Turkey would furnish grounds to Bulgaria for putting forward territorial claims at the peace conference.

Continued on Third Page.

TURKEY WILL QUIT

IF HELP IS DENIED

Germany May Have to Send
Troops From Russia.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.

Copyright, 1918, all rights reserved.
LONDON, Oct. 4.—Turkey's decision as to whether she will continue in the war or sue for peace depends entirely, in the opinion of those who are well informed as to conditions in the Sultan's empire, upon what military action the Central Powers will be able to take in the Balkans and the Near East.

While the fall of Damascus and the surrender of Bulgaria had a tremendous effect in Turkey and the Near East generally, the Sultan is expected to defer action until it is determined whether his present allies will be able to create a new front along the Danube and main-

Continued on Third Page.

YANKEES CARRY HEIGHTS AFTER FIERCE BATTLE

Kriemhilde Trenches Are
Threatened From New
Positions.

ADVANCE THREE MILES

New York Troops in Artois
Show Great Bravery in
Hard Fighting.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.

Copyright, 1918, all rights reserved.
WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN THE ARGONNE, Oct. 4.—Following a crashing all night barrage, the American First Army launched a new attack this morning from the Argonne to the Meuse against the formidable ridge of heights running through Romagne and crowned by the trenches of the Kriemhilde line. The Germans made a desperate defence all along the line, fighting as fiercely as at any time the Americans have engaged them.

By evening the Americans had advanced from one to three miles, capturing important heights and threatening the last German fortified line this side of the frontier.

The battle continues with great violence and ferocity. The New York artillerymen laid down the barrage that enabled the Illinois infantry to reach the Kriemhilde trenches on the west bank of the Meuse.

By the Associated Press.

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY NORTH-
WEST OF VERDUN, Oct. 4.—The Amer-
icans resumed the attack this morn-
ing west of the Meuse and advanced
their lines from two to five kilometers. They captured Hill 249, north of Ex-
ermont, and the villages of Genes, Elville, Chelery and La Forges.

In the face of heavy artillery and machine gun fire Illinois, Wisconsin, western Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia troops have forced the enemy back to the Kriemhilde position, south of Noret Wood.

After artillery preparation the Americans went over the top at 5:30, and before mid-afternoon had attained all their objectives.

The fighting was of the bitterest sort, continuing at last accounts at nearly every point. The Germans apparently were surprised by the attack, which had been expected by them two nights ago. They retreated slightly at first without any great artillery reaction or resistance, but then stiffened and fought like desperate men throughout the remainder of the day.

Challenger was evacuated by the French but was not occupied by the Germans; it is now the target of the artillery on both sides.

In the victorious advance on the crest of Mont Ham, says the Echo de Paris, the French and American forces captured 3,000 prisoners.

Challenger was evacuated by the French but was not occupied by the Germans; it is now the target of the artillery on both sides.

In the victorious advance on the crest of Mont Ham, says the Echo de Paris, the French and American forces captured 3,000 prisoners.

By the Associated Press.

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN CHAM-
PAGE, Oct. 4.—The American and French troops gained more ground to-day north of the important height positions of Mont Blanc and Medeah Farm, giving them a secure hold on the important positions won yesterday. Little by little the Americans and French also were winning from the enemy the strong positions south of Orfeuil, Liry and Monthois.

NEW YORK SOLDIERS SHOW GREAT VALOR

All Who Died Fell Facing
Enemy in Artois.

By the Associated Press.

WITH THE BRITISH FORCES IN FRANCE, Oct. 4.—A New York division cooper-
ating with an Australian corps north of St. Quentin encountered the severest opposition and, although suffering heavy losses, fought with the greatest bravery, according to an officer of the Australian troops in a telegram which he sent to-day to the General in command of the New York soldiers.

The Australian officer said that from a personal reconnaissance made by him over the battlefield east and northeast of Duncan Post it was evident the Amer-

Continued on Second Page.

Retreat of Enemy Quickens,
Though He Resists Stub-
bornly in Artois.

MAY GO TO THE MEUSE

British Gain Six Miles in
Sector Between Lens and
Armentieres.

DAY OF HARD FIGHTING

Roads Behind Cambrai-St.
Quentin Sector Crowded
With Retiring Troops.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.

Copyright, 1918, all rights reserved.
LONDON, Oct. 4.—The great retreat of the Germans took on added im-
petus to-day in the northern section of the battle front, on both sides of the Belgian frontier, and also in the section east of the Cambrai-St. Quentin line. Tremendous fighting continued all day, almost if not quite the most furious that this war has seen, while back of the German lines all the roads and railroads are choked with transport moving eastward, and dozens of towns are being cleared of all civilians.

In the Lens-Armentieres region the British, close on the heels of the retreating Germans, have advanced six miles and now are only six miles from Lille, the greatest railroad centre and supply depot that the Germans have in France. North of the Belgian border the Belgians and French have pressed forward and their troops now are on both sides of Roulers, which is destined to pass into their hands any day.

May Retire to the Meuse.

The retreat of the Germans from Lens and Armentieres is regarded here as of tremendous import, as it is practically an admission that the great battle on the Cambrai-St. Quentin line is nearing its inevitable conclusion, which is almost certain to be followed by a great forward movement of the Allies' forces.

There are plenty of signs that the Germans were preparing for a general retreat, but they intended to make it in slow and orderly fashion, accompanied by the withdrawal of all their guns and supplies to prepared positions, probably along the line of the Meuse, where Gen. Ludendorff intended that the Germans, in new and strong positions, should hold the Allies during the coming winter.

If the allied armies advance in force after the fall of Cambrai and the clearing of the German positions in that region, as it is believed they will, there is an excellent prospect that the retreat of the Germans will become a disastrous rout.

Enemy's Plans Shattered.

The plan of the German High Com-
mand was based upon the retention of the northern and southern pillars of the line while the German armies in the centre withdrew, but the loss of St. Quentin and the forced retreat before the British and Belgians in the north toward Courtrai and Lille, with the smashing of the Hindenburg system between Cambrai and St. Quentin, has put the entire plan awry.

Generale efforts by the Germans to-day to hold or at least to check the British advance in the Cambrai-St. Quentin sector show that the peril of this situation is fully appreciated by their High Command. At least two divisions not heretofore in this vicinity have been ordered to stop the British advance. The Allies now are in a position to force their way forward in open warfare across the area over which the Germans are retreating weeks earlier than they expected. The future military situation will depend on whether the German army is able to reach its new positions, either along the Meuse or the Aisne, in fair military condition. Unless

May Yield All Belgian Coast.

In Flanders conditions are even worse for the Germans. Naval authorities here look for an early abandonment of the entire Belgian coast. The big guns already have been removed and the coast has been under heavy bombardment by British war craft for the last two days. The country behind the German front is all ablaze and the Germans are working frantically to get their supplies away from the depots along the coast. Many depots there are being blown up.

The Allies now are in a position to force their way forward in open warfare across the area over which the Germans are retreating weeks earlier than they expected. The future military situation will depend on whether the German army is able to reach its new positions, either along the Meuse or the Aisne, in fair military condition. Unless